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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Helmut SCHWARZ

Group Art Unit: 3679

Appln. No.: 10/718,593

Examiner: Unknown

Filed:

November 24, 2003

For

DETACHABLE CONNECTION ARRANGEMENT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner For Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 23313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for consideration during examination of the instant application.

(1) US 2002/0031400.

Applicant also submits herewith a copy of the German Search Report (in German) conducted in German Application No. 202 18 300.9 of which the instant application claims priority. In particular the German Examiner cited:

(2) DE 199 58 104. This document is cited as an "X" category document (i.e., a document which casts doubt on novelty when considered alone). Fig. 3 is indicated by the German Examiner as being relevant to claims 1 and 16 of the German

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Application;

- (3) US 3,352,341. This document is cited as an "A" category document (i.e., technical background). Fig. 1 is indicated by the German Examiner as being relevant to the German Application;
- (4) EP 0 352 542. This document is cited as an "X" category document. Figs. 1-4 are indicated by the German Examiner as being relevant to claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 16 and 18 of the German Application. This document is also discussed on paragraph [0074] of the instant specification; and
- (5) JP 09-273529. This document is cited as an "X" category document. Figs. 1, 2 and 5 are indicated by the German Examiner as being relevant to claims 1-3, 6, 14 and 16-20 of the German Application.

Copies of the above-listed documents including the German Search Report are enclosed as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Applicant notes that this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a US application. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed document is required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(1).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-

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0089 any fee necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted materials.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

Helmut SCHWARZ

Neil F. Greenblum

Reg. No. 28,394

February 24, 2004 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 Roland Clarke Place Reston, VA 20191 (703) 716-1191

EXAMINER

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*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

DATE CONSIDERED